

Selendang Ayu Oil Spill Natural Resource Trustees



Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Update May 2008

The natural resource trustees have completed their preliminary assessment of damages from the *Selendang Ayu* oil spill.

That preliminary assessment revealed injuries to marine birds, and to a lesser extent marine mammals, invertebrates, anadromous fish, and terrestrial vegetation. Likely injuries to human use losses were also documented.

Reports describing the nature of those injuries are available for public review at http://alaska.fws.gov/fisheries/contaminants/spill/sa_record.htm.

At this point, the trustees are working cooperatively with the responsible party to further understand the magnitude of these injuries. Cooperative efforts currently underway include the following:

- Estimating the number of marine birds killed by the spill;
- Determining whether harlequin ducks in the core spill area are still being exposed to oil; and
- Re-visiting a suite of beach segments to assess any remaining oil.

The trustees and responsible party have also begun exploring possible restoration projects. The goal is to return injured natural resources and services to baseline and to provide compensation for the loss from the date of the spill to recovery.

Consistent with this goal, when the assessment is complete, the trustees will release to the public a draft Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan for comment. In the meantime, however, the trustees welcome input from the public about appropriate restoration projects.

If you have questions about the *Selendang Ayu* natural resource damage assessment and restoration effort, please contact Jenifer Kohout, with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, at 907-786-3687 or Jenifer_Kohout@fws.gov.